

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8093

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TAGS: ETRD, GATT, SZ

SUBJECT: GATT TOKYO MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 159293; (B) BERN 2887

SUMMARY. SWISS DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF AMBASSADORS
JOLLES AND PROBST, MINISTER DUNKEL, AND TECHNICAL-LEVEL
OFFICIALS. AS FEDERAL COUNCILOR BRUGGER MUST ATTEND
SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS,
IT NOT DECIDED YET WHETHER OR NOT HE WILL HEAD DELEGATION.
AMBASSADOR PROBST TOLD EMBOFF THAT SWISS-US POSITIONS
VERY SIMILAR AND SWITZERLAND WILL INTRODUCE NO NEW INITI-
ATIVES IN TOKYO. IN DISCUSSING SWISS VIEWS ON TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADOR PROBST SAID HE HOPED NEGOTIATIONS
WOULD REDUCE EC AGRICULTURAL RESTRICTIONS AND SUGGESTED
LONG-TERM MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS BE REACHED ON AGRI-
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CULTURAL PRODUCTS, STOCKPILING, AND A CODE OF GOOD

CONDUCT. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AMBASSADOR RAYMOND PROBST, SWISS DELEGATE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, SWISS DELEGATION TO TOKYO MEETING WILL BE AMBASSADOR PAUL RUDOLF JOLLES, DIRECTOR DIVISION OF COMMERCE; AMBASSADOR PROBST; MINISTER ARTHUR DUNKEL, CHIEF OF GATT AFFAIRS; AND ONE OR MORE TECHNICAL-LEVEL OFFICIALS. AS OF AUGUST 16 IT STILL UNDECIDED WHETHER OR NOT DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY FEDERAL COUNCILOR ERNST BRUGGER OR BY AMBASSADOR JOLLES. COUNCILOR BRUGGER MUST ATTEND SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS AND WOULD NOT BE ABLE GET TO TOKYO UNTIL AROUND NOON SEPTEMBER 12. AMBASSADOR PROBST PROMISED INFORM EMBASSY BERN WHEN FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

2. AMBASSADOR PROBST TOLD EMBOFF THAT SWITZERLAND WOULD NOT RPT NOT INTRODUCE ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN TOKYO. HE SAID AS RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS ON MINISTERIAL DECLARATION, HE BELIEVES SWISS POSITION WELL KNOWN TO USG AND THAT SWISS-US POSITION NOW VERY SIMILAR. HE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY, BUT NOT RPT NOT A VERY GREAT ONE, THAT EC DELEGATION MIGHT PRODUCE UNPLEASANT SURPRISE WITH STATEMENT THAT IT COULD NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL MORE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON NEW MONETARY SYSTEM. PROBST SAID HE UNDERSTANDS FRENCH ARE PUSHING THIS POSITION WITHIN EC. HE THINKS, HOWEVER, THIS ONLY FRENCH NEGOTIATING POSITION WITHIN EC AND HE DOUBTS EC WILL ADOPT IT FOR TOKYO MEETING.

3. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SWISS VIEWS ON TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (VERY MUCH ALONG LINES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REF B), PROBST MADE SEVERAL INTERESTING COMMENTS ABOUT AGRICULTURAL POLICY. HE SAID THAT WHILE AGRICULTURE IS SECTOR WITH SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH MOST COUNTRIES FEEL THEY MUST PROTECT TO SOME DEGREE, SWITZERLAND HOPES TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL REDUCE EXCESSIVE PROTECTION, PARTICULARLY AS PRACTICED BY EC. HE SAID THAT SWITZERLAND HAS INTENTIONALLY REDUCED ITS SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGRICULTURE. SWITZERLAND NOW PRODUCING ABOUT 45 PERCENT OF ITS FOOD NEEDS AND CURRENT POLICY IS AIMED AT MAINTAINING THAT LEVEL. IN HIS OPINION, COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) OF EC UNWISE IN THAT IT ENCOURAGES UNECONOMIC PRODUCTION. HE BELIEVES EC SHOULD PRODUCE ONLY ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF ITS AGRICULTURAL NEEDS AND IMPORT THE REST. SUCH A POLICY, HOWEVER, REQUIRES ASSURANCES OF SUPPLY FROM EXPORTING COUNTRIES. WITH PASSING REFERENCE TO

CURRENT US EXPORT CONTROLS, HE SUGGESTED THAT LONG-TERM
MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS BE REACHED ON AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING, AND A CODE OF GOOD CONDUCT.
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